

The Bloomfield Record.

[OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE TOWNSHIP.]

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.
FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1875.

All who are interested in having a live newspaper in this village are requested to send to mail, or to the publishing office, local items of news, correspondence, etc., for publication.

No charge is made for publishing Marriages, Deaths, or Religious Notices.

Single numbers of *The Record* can always be had at this office, at the Post Office, and at the News-stand.

All kinds of PRINTING done at THE RECORD Office.

The Question of Improvements.

It will be remembered that a couple of weeks ago we closed a local article by taking ground against the bonding system for public improvements. We expected to follow the subject up in the succeeding number, but were prevented from doing so by demands upon our space by other matters. And now that a gentleman in Montclair has sent us an article, clipped from the *New York Times* of a recent date, in which this topic is discussed in such an able manner, we have concluded to copy a portion of it, and would earnestly commend it for careful consideration by both Bloomfield and Montclair taxpayers. The reading of it has materially strengthened our conviction, as already asserted, that direct taxation is the safest and best policy that can be adopted in regard to our public improvements:

MORTGAGING THE FUTURE.

"Getting in debt is a good deal easier than paying debts; at least when one's credit is not impaired. Jay Cooke & Co. found this out, and their creditors, as well as the creditors of the Northern Pacific Railroad, understand the truth of the proposition. Cash down is said to be a wholesome restraint on the imagination. Few persons are as rich to-day as they expect to be a year, or ten years, or fifty years hence, and imaginative individuals are generally vastly richer in promises than in cash. It costs so little at present to sign one's name to a promise to pay, that so long as that signature is good for anything it is apt to appear under an obligation with a date of payment put conveniently remote. When pay-day comes round, however, the little experience it brings to those who endeavor to perform their promises is instructive, and due bills are likely to be looked upon more as a matter of business afterward.

"While running in debt is a pretty serious business for individuals, partnerships, and corporations other than municipal, municipal indebtedness is more far-reaching in its consequences, oppressing if not impoverishing, entire communities, and not unfrequently corrupting and demoralizing officials, and poisoning the very sources of government. New York City, without the power to create a debt, would probably never have had its criminal trials illustrated with the name of Tweed; and other cities in the State, without this facility of borrowing, would not have been rendered for the brilliant political and financial achievement which just now are making so many gentlemen unpleasantly conspicuous. The citizen who is compelled annually to pay heavy taxes has a way of trying to find out what is done with his money, and if these who take the trouble to manage the politics and business of his town or city are getting rich, he is apt to notice it and be inquisitive about it. But the same citizen is too often careless and indifferent; if, indeed, he does not join the spendthrifts, when it comes to an expenditure bringing with it little or no present taxation, although it may mortgage every resource and industry of his town, and hang on the necks of the people for generations a burden of debt—a burden that often brings with it corruption and dishonesty in administration, eating like rust into the morals of the people. Whether a sparing use of municipal credit is not something beneficial, we need not now discuss; but it can hardly admit of a doubt that a total prohibition of municipal indebtedness would be better than no limitation at all."

There is no more wholesome and striking lesson before the whole country, at the present time, than the evil effects produced by the bonding system particularly as applied to railway improvements. The public credit system has so affected the interests of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that legislation has been earnestly sought, in that State, as the only remedy. A bill recently framed restricts the bonding of cities and towns to certain specific improvements, such as water and public buildings, and for these purposes only when sanctioned by a two-thirds vote of the legal voters. And further, that "neither the principal nor interest of any debt so contracted shall be paid by contracting a new liability."

If the experience of staid old Massachusetts—"the land of steady habits," demands such legislation in order to curtail a too liberal policy, should we not, ourselves, decide to make haste slowly before falling to a clamor, which is all the more dangerous from its outward appearance of plausibility and mistaken popularity?

Three or four years ago public meetings were held in this section, to induce people to lend their countenance and sympathy to the plan of bonding our villages to build a line of railway. Some towns did so. And now they have repented at leisure. We believe it to be, entirely wrong in principle, demoral-

izing in tendency and ultimate effect, for townships, cities, states or nations to subsidize or in any way to bind the public credit in behalf of private corporations.

We will close by advancing a few practical ideas on local village improvements. We have heard it recommended that Bloomfield needed flagged sidewalks and that the only way she could have them was by an issue of "Sidewalk bonds." Now the cost of stone walks is certainly a heavy item—too heavy, it must be admitted, for most of our property owners to incur. But the fact is, we are not yet ready to flag our streets. The real estate, even within a stone's throw of the Center, is not sufficiently divided up in ownership to admit of it. Shall we, therefore, deny ourselves the comfort of dry sidewalks? We think not. Goodwalks, constructed with planks, can be built and kept in thorough repair upon an outlay scarcely exceeding the interest upon a walk of flagging. And all that is necessary to have such walks under the existing township law, is for a majority of owners on a street to come together in a proper spirit of energetic enterprise, and the work can be accomplished.

The idea that we cannot have improvements without rushing to extremes by aping the extravagant measures of large municipalities is a fallacious one. Indeed, its wisdom and lack of necessity has been clearly demonstrated. We believe it was argued, at the time the project of building the new Center Schoolhouse came up, that it would be advisable to bond the township for that purpose. This, however, was not done, and the fine, enduring structure which has been erected without resorting to an issue of bonds, furnishes an example that wiser counsels have prevailed.

The Young People's Association of the Baptist Church.

This association held its regular monthly meeting on Monday night. The programme included the following literary and musical exercise:

—Duet—Misses Hattie and Josie Fairbanks—"In the Starlight."

Declamation—J. Edward Stilboort—"Moloch's address to the Angels in Hell."

Paper (original)—By Joseph B. Maxwell—"The Latest Sensation."

Quartette—Misses Hattie and Josie Fairbanks, Messrs. E. W. Garrabrant and W. R. Smith—"Ring the Bell, Watchman."

Readings by Miss Lizzie Willet—"Our New Church Organ," and "The Old Village Choir."

Rev. Dr. Kennedy was present, and being loudly called for, made some very happy remarks, at the close of which a plentiful supply of apples and doughnuts were passed around and a good social time engaged in.

The Lecture to be given Friday eve., April 30, in the Baptist Church by Rev. Fred. Bell, the converted pugilist, is under the auspices of this association.

Bloomfield Township Committee.

Regular meeting at the Euelian Room, Friday, April 23d.

The following bills were ordered paid:

A. Riker, Poor Acc. \$25.

Pres. Society, Cont. Acc. \$20.

C. B. Haff, " " 57.

M. Davis, " " \$10.

The bond of Alex. C. Marr, Collector, was received, accepted, and ordered placed on file. The bond is fixed at \$10,000. The bondsmen are Cornelius Cadmus, Wm. Cadmus, N. H. Dodd and John G. Keyler.

Complaints were brought before the Committee in regard to the disturbance of divine worship in the churches by the ringing of horse-coll bells on Sundays. The clerk was requested to write to the President of the Horse Car R. R. Co., requesting a removal of the bells on Sundays.

The Committee appointed to confer with the Trustees of School District No. 6, in relation to a claim against the town for educating children from the Alms-house, made a report through Mr. Oakes. It was stated the claim of the Trustees for \$12 per child was deemed exorbitant. A recommendation to pay them \$8 was made, and it was stated the Trustees were willing to accept such amount. This reduces the bill from \$186 to \$124, for educating children from 1870 to 1875. The bill was then referred to the Overseer of the Poor for his signature.

A discussion was had upon the condition of the Poor House, and a motion was made and carried that the Town Committee visit the premises on the following Friday afternoon.

West End Notes.

One of the latest improvements in this pleasant part of our village, is the new carriage house of Mr. Reford. Its architectural appearance is pleasing and we are informed the internal appointments are to be complete in all respects.

Mr. Robert Peale has recently laid a fine walk on the east side of Midland avenue, extending all the way from Linden to Washington avenues.

—Mr. Geo. Roubaud is just moving into the new house he has built upon Hillside avenue.

Ex-Collector Campbell requests notice to be given that the adjourned sale of property for unpaid taxes of 1873 will take place on Monday next at 2 o'clock P. M., at the Archdeacon Hotel.

WANTED.—About 20 or 30 more of those healthy young men, respectfully connected or otherwise, are wanted to stand upon the sidewalk in front of the M. E. Church on Sunday evenings.

—It is expected that a grand Spelling Tournament between the ladies and gentlemen of Bloomfield and Montclair will shortly take place. Those immediately interested in the enterprise will spare no effort to make it a decided success. Bloomfield, of course, will make the challenge, and the match if it comes off, will probably be one of absorbing interest. It is hoped to make it a thorough test of orthographic proficiency in the two vil-

The Coterie.

Wednesday evening last, at the residence of Mr. Jay L. Adams, the Coterie, which society was organized two years ago, disbanded forever; this action being the result of a unanimous vote. To-day that association is but a thing which *has been*. Its influence, however, is substantial, and will be realized in the years which are yet to come. As a literary and musical circle, its power has been great. The growth of undeveloped talent has been rapid; the results each member realizes; and the pleasures afforded at these gatherings will ever remain fresh in memory. In one word, the entire course of the Coterie has been one of continued and unbroken success.

Music was the chief attraction of the first part of the programme, which was varied by the reading of Hood's "Bridge of Sighs," by Mrs. Norton; two articles from the Budget; and, the Treasurer's Report.

The musical performance was one of the finest ever given by the Coterie. The first, vocal solo, by Mr. R. J. Beach, a gentleman whose musical ability renders comment unnecessary; followed by an instrumental duet, by the Misses Willis and Adams, the execution of which did great credit to each lady. Miss Annie Crane and Mr. Wm. Dodd afforded the utmost gratification by a vocal duet; while Miss Rice, pianist, and Mr. Grunert, violinist, for nearly a half hour held the audience in suspense for the first time, and while there were few if any instances of blanching, there were conspicuous examples of personal valor and fortitude. Captain Broughton's ranks appeared, in the early part of the encounter, to suffer more severely than the other side. An unmitting fire was kept up for more than two hours.

Toward the last, the proponent seemed almost to despair of bringing down the four or five word-warriors who, thus far, had proved unconquerable. One of them wounded in a *Reconnaissance*, and afterward getting mortally stung by a *Cocatrice*, at length gave the learned pedagogue his cue. The domain of anachorite research must be invaded in order to vanquish the two or three who still held out. ORNITHORHYNCHUS and other non-descripts were resort to, and narrowed the contest down to one lady. Her case appeared to be one of invincibility, and she was therefore awarded the victor's prize, a handsome volume of Longfellow's poem, "The Hanging of the Crane."

We congratulate the Coterie upon its successful career, and in bidding them adieu, we give this advice,—let each and every member thoughtfully and reverently, and with as genuine sincerity, as did the noble and the good Parpa Rosa, who first uttered the words, appropriate the same, and say, "Not to me does the praise belong, but to my Maker, who gave me the talent I possess."

D. D.

Moving of the Waters.

The most striking illustrations of this subject are to be seen at 481 Broadway, New York, where MESSRS. WATERS & CO. are kept busy from morning until night in attending to their customers. Their instruments are so excellent in quality and reasonable in price as to leave little to be desired. They have already a lively demand for their New Scale Pianos. But, in respect to the improvements in musical instruments, the *plus ultra* may have been achieved by WATERS & CO. in their Concerto Organ. In truth, beyond what we see little or nothing save the retreating line of their competitors as, with solemn tread and slow, they—*Excent Omnes.*

Rassbach's Nurseries.

The season being now at hand for tree and garden planting, the place of Mr. Rassbach, at West End, is worthy of a call from those who wish to replenish or beautify their grounds by setting out trees, shrubs and plants. He displays an excellent assortment of bedding plants, particularly Roses and Verbenas. Vegetable plants of all kinds can also be had ready for transplanting. In the small fruits, he offers several kinds of choice strawberry plants, as well as raspberries, currants, gooseberries and grape vines. Standard pears and other fruit trees can also be had ready for transplanting. Also hedging and ornamental evergreens.

—The gray horse driven by the employees of the Montclair Gas and Water Co. ran away and was severely injured a day or two ago. The accident is reported to have occurred through carelessness, the bridle having been taken off to enable the horse to eat while fastened to the wagon.

—Edgar Yeury, who has efficiently filled the office of ticketagent and telegraph operator at the Bloomfield Central Depot during the past year, has received a more lucrative position at Mott Haven, in the Harlem Railroad, and leaves Bloomfield to-day.

—The Superintendent of the Montclair Railway has issued a circular stating that the proposed increase of commutation rates will not take place. The same rates heretofore charged will continue after May 1st, being \$7.50 per month between Bloomfield and New York.

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—Some of the papers spell the red cap of Cardinal McCloskey "Beretta" and others "Berretta." It is evident, in this day of spelling-book precision, that the delinquent journalists should be invested with a fool's cap. But the word is not Webster, and may be reasonably ruled out as technical.

—Ipecacuanha seems to have lost its virtues. It has been regarded as the *Nemesis* of word-propounders with wary spellers on their hands, who generally make (w)retched work with the dose. It was given in Bloomfield the other night, but without producing even a wry face.

—MESSRS. POTTER, of the Bloomfield Flouring Mills, are putting in a powerful turbine water wheel, and other new machinery to meet the steadily increasing demands upon their business.

—Peter Condit has been awarded the contract for the carpenter work of the Mabel Association building, which is shortly to be built on Liberty street.

—It is expected that a grand Spelling

Tournament between the ladies and gentlemen of Bloomfield and Montclair will shortly take place. Those immediately interested in the enterprise will spare no effort to make it a decided success. Bloomfield, of course, will make the challenge, and the match if it comes off, will probably be one of absorbing interest. It is hoped to make it a thorough test of orthographic proficiency in the two vil-

More Spelling.

A large and thoroughly enthusiastic assemblage of dictionary devotees filled the Old Stone Meeting House on the Green last Monday night. The young people of the church, it is said, were the originators of this Spelling Bee, and they succeeded in securing the best orthographic talent of the town. Pastor Ballantine and Judge Whitehead took seats on the platform, about 8 o'clock, as Referees. County Superintendent Davis also came forward, with a bundle of spelling books and manuscripts in hand, and announced himself well-pleased that so large a number were prompt in their attendance at school. He then called upon Mrs. Bliss and Mr. Broughton to call up their classes. Twenty were selected to spell on each side, those chosen taking seats on each side of the platform.

The audience voted that the contestants for Webster's dictionary—Inextricably should stand up courageously in the aisles while under fire.

It will be to the interest of the ladies of Bloomfield and vicinity to call at Mrs. M. A. Harvey's Millinery Rooms, 23 door below Post Office, and examine the new and delightful perfume and face powder combined. Nothing it has ever been sold for in this place, except that it is *perfumed* and *perfumed* as a face powder it has no equal. Try it. For sale only by Mrs. M. A. Harvey, Bloomfield, N. J.

Any person calling for the above letters will please say "advertisements."

H. DODD, P. M.

Remaining unclaimed at the Post Office in Bloomfield, ON WEDNESDAY, April 28, 1873:

Bunce, Mr. Lee, Sarah Lee & Bro.

Burdick, Fenton (2) Mrs. Margaret

Demott, Mary E. Mrs. Letitia

Dix, Mrs. Lydia Mrs. Lydia

Ev. Annie Mrs. Lydia

Friedman, C. Mrs. Lydia

Frost, J. W. Mrs. Lydia

Gillette, Ed. A. Mrs. Lydia

Harris, Mrs. Lydia

Jordan, John Mrs. Lydia

Johnston, J. J. Mrs. Lydia

Kouig, Karl Mrs. Lydia

Wheeler, Mrs. Lydia